

Serial No. 10/607,569
Amdt. Dated Sept. 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 7, 2004

RD-27852

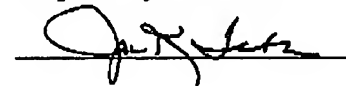
REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action mailed on July 7, 2004. Claims 1-25 are pending in the present patent application. Of the pending claims, claims 1, 3-7, 15 and 17-21 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Dobbins, III (US 4,903,204) and claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 8-14, 16 and 22-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to the Office Action, Applicants cancelled claims 2, 16 and 17 and amended claims 1 and 15 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 16, respectively. . Claims 1, 3-15, 18-25 remain pending in this application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 USC §112 and 35 USC §102(b) have been obviated, and the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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